PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1996/1416H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
ARABIC LITERATURE

Topic: Literature Analyzing the Writings of Early Arab Travellers

The Selection Committee of The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature has awarded the 1996 prize to:

Shaikh Hamad bin Muhammad Al-Jasir

Shaikh Hamad Al-Jasir (Saudi) is a distinguished Muslim writer and a world authority on the history, geography, cultures, and people of the Arabian peninsula. He started his remarkable career as a writer, and journalist, in the 1930s and has since authored some 1,200 articles and numerous books dealing with various aspects of society in Arabia. Almost half a century ago, he founded the first newspaper and printing press in Riyadh and established Dar Al Yamamah, a successful research, translation, and publishing agency devoted to the studies of the Arabian peninsula. Al-Jasir's impact as a writer and publisher has earned him prestige among his peers, He is a member of the Syrian, Iraqi, and Egyptian Arabic Language academies and recipient of the Saudi Arabian State Prize and Al-Uwais Prize (UAB) for Arabic Literature.

Shaikh Hamad Al-Jasir has been awarded the King Faisal International Prize in recognition of his excellent analytical studies and reviews of more than 30 works written by early Arab travellers and pilgrims. The is best exemplified by his highly academic 3-volume study of Ad-Durar Al Farai’d by Abd Al-Gadir Al-Jaziri (16th century) and his study of Kitab Al Manasik, attributed to Al-Harbi in the eighth century.